

1886

## Letter from Jason Brown to Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, August 18, 1886

Jason Brown

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Pasadena Cal Aug 18-1886

Mr F. B. Sanborn

My Dear Kind friend  
Your good letter

from Ithaca was received, (I am ashamed to say it,) months ago - I did not intend to treat you in such a manner - I work out most of the time by the day, and when I get home to our cabin, I am too tired to write to any of my friends, or my own family - When Sunday comes there is almost always some one or more here to talk with us and so the whole time goes from week to week, and months and years pass, and my dearest friends are neglected - Owen is here with me, well, and likes this Country very much We do our own cooking and washing, and this takes some of our time and after doing the work which must be done each day our leisure moments are few -

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We hope you will pardon us for any seeming neglect. I still like this country as well as ever. Pasadena is improving wonderfully, and the land all about here is rising in value fast, so that we have no cause for discouragement though we get along very slowly with our improvements. The people of Pasadena are eastern, mostly, and are very kind to us; they raised over \$100, a short time ago without our knowing it, and gave it to us to buy a cow. We could not take it as a gift, but gladly accepted of it as a loan, with the privilege of paying it as soon as we are able. I have but little doubt but that we could sell the land we have taken here, for enough to pay every dollar I owe, and still have left enough for a comfortable little home somewhere, but I cannot sell or bargain away any part till I can get a title from the U S government, which I hope to get in 3 years. My son and his two little boys came here in April intending to stay a year and then if he liked the country well enough, move here, but he soon got discouraged with the care of his children and "keeping shanty" near the mountains, and after staying two months of the dullest and hottest part of the year, returned to Akron O homesick enough. His wife died of Consumption 3 years ago, and my wife has kept house for him since. She was always opposed to my coming here and said she could



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never leave Akron again, to live in the west - after trying "that Kansas move". I cannot blame her as I have always believed that a wife has the same right to decide where her home shall be, as a husband.

My wife is a brave woman, and says she will never leave Akron till every dollar of our debts is paid - and she has paid, <sup>since I came here</sup> working at \$2.00 per week, almost as much, in the same time, as I could spare from my earnings here. My Son is also doing all in his power to help us out. I do <sup>not</sup> write this to boast of my

family but to let you know that they are all trying. Not every <sup>woman</sup> will advise the selling <sup>I don't</sup> home at auction to pay debts, as she did; and <sup>that</sup> ~~after~~ giving up <sup>of</sup> everything we could spare but the Cow. Since I came here; she has sold that, and paid another debt.

I <sup>have</sup> every reason to be thankful for much more <sup>than</sup> I deserve, and for <sup>the true</sup> ~~the~~ kindness of almost every one I am acquainted with. I have enjoyed living here very much ~~much~~ and felt <sup>most of the time</sup> encouraged, when my son went back with the children, I could not help feeling a little discouraged about ever ~~being~~ getting my family to come here to live.

Henry Thompson and family have moved into town for the present in order to get work at his trade (a Carpenter) and finds all the work he can do. All are well. We have not heard from Salmon nor ~~any~~ of the families in

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Yours

Jason Brown



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